

President for Youth Activities of the American Latvian Association. As a third generation Latvian, he eloquently expresses the meaning of his ethnic heritage. Even more revealing are the scenes of a pair of young teenage twins at their religious confirmation. These youths articulate a feeling of ethnicity that is much clearer and more enlightened than the words of many academic scholars who pontificate on the subject. The ceremony is more than a religious ritual; it is a confirmation of the Latvian heritage of the two individuals involved, their families, and their friends. The dimensions of continuity and change are graphically illustrated as these people relate their identities across time and space from Nebraska in the 1980s to Latvia of centuries past.

So much for assimilationist theories and the myth of the American melting pot! The paradigm presented in this program is significant beyond Latvian Americans and the two centuries in which they have lived. The dynamics of ethnicity can be compared specifically with other European immigrants who came to the United States in the late nineteenth century and more generally with the recent immigrants from Southeast Asia. The processes are also comparable to ethnicity as maintained among black and American Indian groups through such boundary-maintaining mechanisms such as food, music, dance, visual arts, literature, and religion. Therein lies the great contribution of this program to those interested in the study of ethnicity. *In Search of Freedom: Nebraskans from Latvia*, therefore, is highly recommended for classroom use in ethnic studies courses as well as those in anthropology, sociology, history and allied fields.

—David M. Gradwohl
Iowa State University

Richard Newman, comp. *Black Access: A Bibliography of Afro-American Bibliographies*. (Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1984) xxviii, 249 pp., \$35.00.

Richard Newman, who has previously published a number of bibliographies on various subjects in Afro-American studies, has made an important contribution to that field with his compilation of *Black Access: A Bibliography of Afro-American Bibliographies*, a listing of over 13,000 bibliographies. The book also includes a pleasant and informative introductory essay, "Fifty Years of Collecting," by Dorothy B. Porter, librarian emerita at Howard University.

A topic as large as the sub-title indicates requires that the compiler establish workable and reasonable guidelines, lest the work become so general in scope that it lose its focus and that its usefulness is compro-

mised. Newman has settled on what appear to be workable and sensible rules-of-thumb concerning what broad areas to include and to omit. He has wisely chosen to exclude bibliographies on areas which are "peripheral to the Afro-American experience," for example, bibliographies on the Caribbean and Africa. He has appropriately elected to include "bibliographies on some non-black persons whose life and work has been significant in Afro-American history," such as Harriet Beecher Stowe and Carl Van Vechten. Since, for a work of this kind, no rigid system could be completely suitable, Newman has sensibly recognized the need for some elasticity and included a number of entries simply because "I found them interesting."

The bibliography is arranged alphabetically by author, the most feasible way of handling matters. Necessarily, then, the usefulness of *Black Access* depends largely upon the comprehensiveness and accuracy of the subject index, upon whether or not the topics listed therein are sufficiently complete to provide the researcher with easy "access" to the subject being investigated. The subject index appears to be thorough. (In a quick check of a few items, however, I was unable to find in the bibliography itself the entry for the item on Rudolf Fisher, as listed in the index.) Newman has also included a chronological index, which for most users may have limited value, and for which a few words of explanation would have been helpful.

My one major criticism is that even though all items are "essentially title indicative," at least brief, select annotations suggesting the scope and, where possible, the worth of individual items would be extremely helpful. Nonetheless, the lack of annotations does not negate the value of a work which should prove highly useful to researchers in Afro-American studies in a number of ways. The very comprehensiveness of *Black Access* makes it easy to learn what areas have been dealt with (though the lack of annotations precludes knowing quickly how well subjects have been handled); that comprehensiveness also points rather clearly, by implication, to those areas which have not been addressed at all.

—Richard L. Herrnstadt
Iowa State University